

St Francis of Assisi School

St Francis of Assisi School Newsletter

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Kia ora koutou e te whānau

[THE 11 HOTTEST EDTECH TOPICS OF 2017 \(SO FAR\)](https://www.iste.org/explore/articleDetail?articleid=865)

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This article appeared in my facebook feed this weekend - quite timely actually as I have been reflecting on our Professional Development and all of the ways in which we involving ourselves in new learning opportunities here at St Francis.

It is really pleasing and actually really exciting to see just how many of these topics that we are already learning and talking about here at St Francis.

"The most compelling topics among educators who embrace technology for learning and teaching are not about the tech at all, but about the students."

I've listed the topics on my blog jothinkingonline.blogspot.co.nz with a quick comment about how we stack up here at St Francis - however the whole article is well worth a read. We are in a really exciting position here at St Francis - It reminds me of the video clip above and beyond... we have the chance to go above and beyond and we are well on the way!!

Link to video: <https://youtu.be/7KMM387HNQk>

Most Likely to Succeed

On Monday 10 April, at 7pm we will be hosting a screening of the film Most Likely To Succeed.

"The topic of this film is school — both its past and its future. The film inspires its audiences with a sense of purpose and possibility, and is bringing school communities together in re-imagining what our students and teachers are capable of doing. After seeing this film, you'll never look at school the same way again." - <http://www.mltsfilm.org/>

This event will be free however we will be issuing tickets for this event and they will issued on a first in first served basis.

There will be more information emailed out about this event next week include the Ticket Registration Google Form. In the meantime watch the trailer for this video at the link below <https://vimeo.com/122502930>

CHOOSING TO BE AN INNOVATIVE CATHOLIC LEARNING COMMUNITY THAT
INSPIRES AND EMPOWERS LEARNERS TO SUCCEED.

First Reconciliation.

Preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time is an exciting time. It is time to focus on God's mercy, how we forgive among our family, friends, and community, and how we celebrate forgiveness.



Congratulations to the children of our school and parish who will receive this Sacrament on Sunday at St Gregory's Church.

May God, our forgiving father, be with them as they begin their journey to His forgiveness. May He open their ears, minds and hearts to the teaching of his Son. May He fill them with the spirit of love, peace, joy and kindness. Amen

Parent Information Session

Friday 7 April 9am. We are holding an information session for parents of children who have started or will be starting at our school this year. We have sent out invitations to those parents however we would like to open this up to any other parents that might like to attend.

If you have not received an invitation and you have a child starting later in the year it may be that we don't have an enrolment form yet - come along to the session and we can remedy this or call in at the office!

The focus of the session is on New Entrants however there will be information that is relevant to other parents as well and you are more than welcome to attend.

RSVP by submitting the form on the link below. Looking forward to seeing you there.

<https://goo.gl/forms/5hoOO9BnGnvK32xH2>

Duathlon

Congratulations to the 14 children who represented St Francis of Assisi on Monday at the Primary Schools Duathlon. We had some great results despite the wet and cold weather conditions. A huge thank you to those parents who transported children to and from the event. Check out the sports blog for more information and photos of the event.

Canterbury Primary Sports Swimming Championships.

We have 4 students competing at the Canterbury Primary Swimming Sports which will be held on Thursday April 6th. Congratulations for qualifying for this event and we hope you perform well on the day.

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Regional Kids Lit Quiz

Our teams participated very well on Monday - it was an exciting event for them competing against 69 other teams at Cobham. St Francis 2 were placed 16th and St Francis 2 were placed 26th. Great achievement for both teams - roll on 2018!!

Lit Club

There has been renewed interest in our Lit club - children are welcome to join at any point so encourage your children (Yr 5-8) to come along and see what it is all about. Next term we are running a Lit Quiz and inviting teams from other schools. More information about this early in the term.

Subway Lunch – Thursday 13th April (last day of term)

The St Francis of Assisi Netball Club is running a Subway lunch fundraiser. Order forms will be distributed to the children closer to the day however please put this in your diary. The netball club has over 65 children from our school and we would love your support by purchasing lunch on this day. Pricing and more information will be available soon.

Drainage Works on Tay Street

Tay Street Drain improvement works to start soon

March 2016

Contractor Seipp Construction will next month start works to upgrade the Tay Street Drain network. These works are part of the Council's Land Drainage Recovery Programme (LDRP) project, aiming to reduce flood risk in the Dudley Creek catchment through increasing the effectiveness of the land drainage network during significant rainfall events. The works will also maximise the operation of the Tay Street Drain Pump Station in Kensington Avenue in a 1-in-50-year rainfall event.

This work will include:

- **New pipe work through St Francis of Assisi School**
- A new pipe network along Thames Street and Norah Street
- Tay Street Drain open channel improvements

***Please note** - more information on this can be found on the school website, on the newsletter and has also been emailed to you.*

Attendance Dues

Attendance Dues – DUE BY DATES. Some of you have expressed confusion as to why the parish has a due by date on our invoices.

As you are aware, the parish invoice you on behalf of the Diocese, for the Attendance Dues/Special Character Contributions for each child attending a Catholic School.

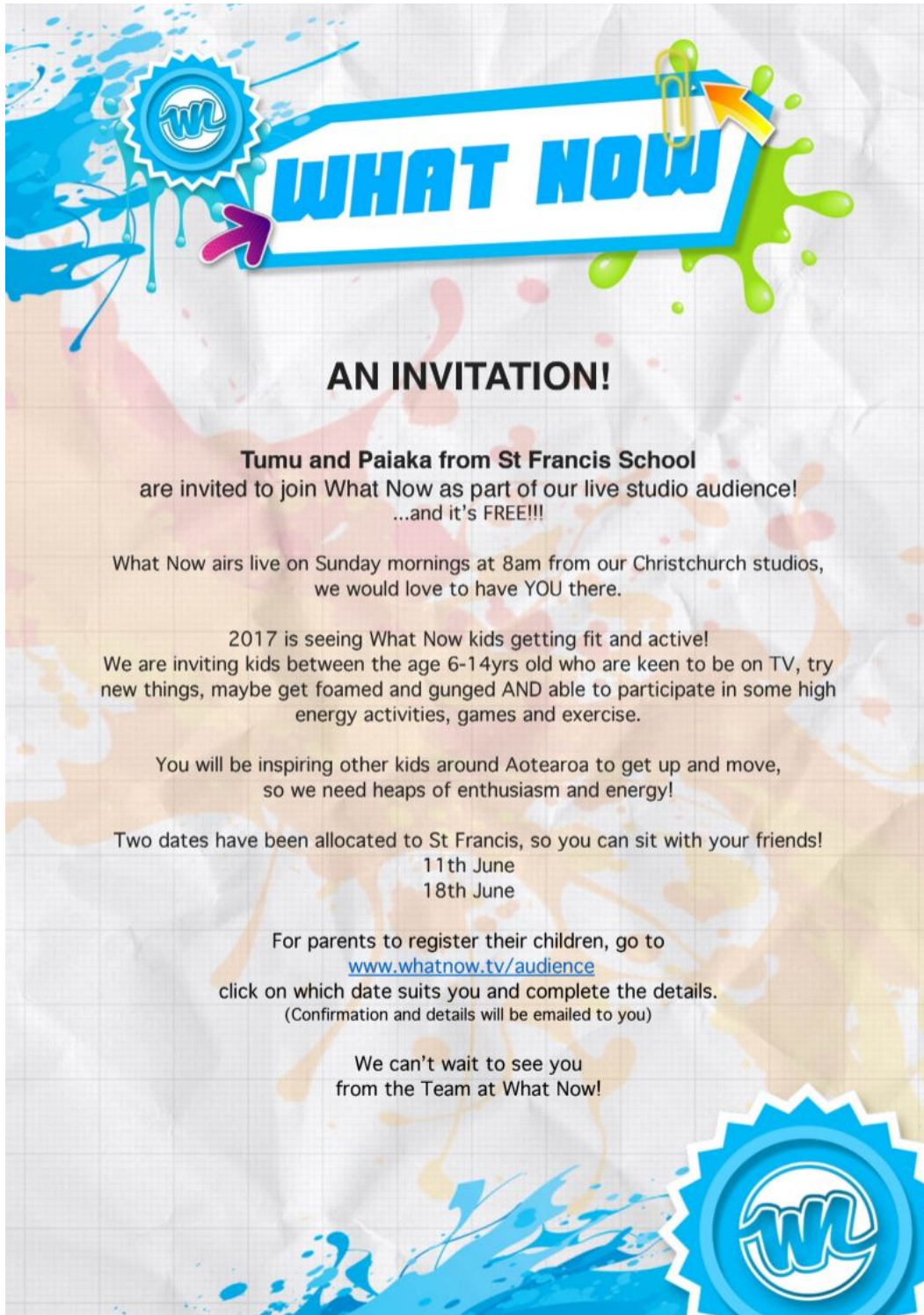
What you may not be aware of is that the parish then receives an invoice from the Diocese for approximately \$22,000 which we are required to pay by a certain date.

We put a due by date on our invoices to ensure the parish has the funds to meet the Diocesan Invoice for your children at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School.

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The 2017 due by dates are 20th February, 20th May, 20th August & 20th November. As always, if you have any queries or are having difficulty paying your account, please get in touch with the parish office. Phone 385 3459.

Invitation for Students In Tumu and Paiaka Hubs



WHAT NOW

AN INVITATION!

Tumu and Paiaka from St Francis School
are invited to join What Now as part of our live studio audience!
...and it's FREE!!!

What Now airs live on Sunday mornings at 8am from our Christchurch studios,
we would love to have YOU there.

2017 is seeing What Now kids getting fit and active!
We are inviting kids between the age 6-14yrs old who are keen to be on TV, try
new things, maybe get foamed and gunged AND able to participate in some high
energy activities, games and exercise.

You will be inspiring other kids around Aotearoa to get up and move,
so we need heaps of enthusiasm and energy!

Two dates have been allocated to St Francis, so you can sit with your friends!
11th June
18th June

For parents to register their children, go to
www.whatnow.tv/audience
click on which date suits you and complete the details.
(Confirmation and details will be emailed to you)

We can't wait to see you
from the Team at What Now!

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Lost Property

Maxwell Francis Paiaka Hub has lost his named school jersey, please return if found.
Thanks

Second Hand Jersey -

as new only worn for 3 weeks

For sale Size 97cm School Jersey. Price Negotiable. Please phone Liz -385 2660

Safety of our Children

Please make sure when bringing your children into school in the mornings to close the gates behind you. We need the gates to be closed to ensure that no students wander out into the carpark - Please do not push the gate so that it stays open.

Road Patrol

More helpers are needed urgently, please contact Phil Bell, email phil.clarebell@gmail.com.
Thanks

Drop Off Zone

Please note the drop off zone on Innes Rd is for exactly that - dropping off and picking up children - you must not leave you car there while you walk in and get your children - you can't leave your car unattended. There are some parents parking and leaving their cars there and this is extremely inconvenient for those who wish to use it properly. Also a reminder that you must not park on the yellow lines, nor come into the Parish carpark. These rules are for your children's safety - please abide by them.

PTA Cheese Roll Fundraiser

Does anyone have contacts for discounted or donated - bread, tinned onion soup mix, evaporated milk or grated cheese. We will be making bulk orders of each early next term.

Please let the school office know if you can help.

Thanks St Francis of Assisi PTA



Winter Socks

The PTA currently have a stock of the smaller sizes Boys Winter socks (\$10.50 per pair) and Girls navy blue socks (\$8.50 per pair) available for purchase now Jr10-12 13-2 and 3-5 please contact Kelly at kellyvw@gmail.com

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Join us for a cuppa!



Please note that this is different to the Parent Information Sharing session being held on Friday 7 April.

Tsunami Warning Sirens - Test

Kia ora – Please see below message from the Linwood-Central-Heathcote Community Governance Team fyi.

The tsunami warning sirens will be tested this Sunday at 11am. The sirens are located along the coast from Taylors Mistake to Brooklands. The sirens will sound for approximately three minutes, and are designed to be heard within a few blocks of the coast.

Our sirens are tested twice a year to coincide with the start and finish of daylight savings.

Further information on the tsunami evacuation zone, the tsunami sirens and preparedness information can be found [here](#).

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First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion Programme

Children who have been baptised and are in Year 4 and up are invited to prepare to make their First Reconciliation and First Communion. Please sign up on the clipboard in the church foyer.

Our Parish St Vincent de Paul needs you.

The parish St Vincent de Paul Conference covers the largest parish geographical area and receives on average 200 calls a month for assistance. Due to illness and age we now have very few people in our team who are able to deliver food parcels to those in need. Are you available during the day and have your own transport? Please consider joining our busy team in this very important work. Full training will be given. Please contact Kirsten in the parish office if you are interested in finding out more.

Community Notices

Olympic Schools Program

St Francis of Assisi School has registered on the Olympic Schools Program. ANZ and the New Zealand Olympic Committee are proud to support St Francis of Assisi School in its mission to inspire and motivate young New Zealanders to achieve excellence through the Olympic Schools Programme.

The Olympic Schools program has been developed by ANZ with the NZ Olympic committee to inspire & motivate NZ's youth. Your school will be provided with resources & merchandise to provide opportunities, activities & incentives for students to live the Olympic values.

How does it work? When a Home Loan or business loan is drawn down by any parent, teacher or friend of St Francis of Assisi School the school will receive 800 credits to redeem at the ANZ Awards centre. The awards centre has a variety of items ranging from sports

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equipment to the latest computer technology. The school will receive 800 credits for every successful drawdown of a new Home Loan, business loan or top up with ANZ over \$50000. 800 credits equates to \$400 of purchasing power in the ANZ awards centre. When your first loan is drawn an Olympian will come to your school & work with the teachers to deliver a memorable Olympic experience for all students.

Your school can also request personalised letters of encouragement from an Olympian. These will be written directly to a nominated student and will recognise individual student potential and provide added encouragement to them in their pursuit of excellence, whether academic or sporting.

The person drawing down the loan just needs to contact myself or let the staff member at ANZ know they want the credits to go to your school. We will then register the points. We will send you a statement of your points every 2 months.

How can I find out more?

Please contact Rebecca Snelgar at ANZ Merivale branch on 368 2489 for more information or rebecca.snelgar@anz.com

Holiday Programme

The April school holidays are fast approaching! Join us for a week of action packed fun and adventure, with plenty of sport, onsite activities, and outings.

To check out the programme details for each venue or **register online**, go to www.sportcanterbury.org.nz

April 2017 school holiday highlights for full day participants:

Week One: 18th - 21st (Easter Monday is the 17th)

- **Papanui:** enjoy a trip to the Margaret Mahy playground, a rugby skills session with the boys from the Belfast Rugby Club, plus the usual awesome swimming at Graham Condon and trip to Hoyts.
- **Lincoln:** learn new skills with a session from Touch Canterbury and Canterbury Country Cricket and bounce the afternoon away at Mega Air!
- **Pioneer:** Juniors get crafty and make and fly your own kite, swim at Pioneer and join the Seniors for a trip to Hoyts to see 'Baby Boss'. Seniors get inventive with a session with Science Alive and hit the pool for swimming fun.
- **Westburn:** learn new skills with a session from Touch Canterbury, swim at Jellie Park and take trip to Hoyts to see 'Baby Boss'. Juniors - scoot, skate or bike around the Westburn Bike Park, using road safety skills, Seniors - have a go at Frisbee Golf.
- **Swannanoa:** learn new skills with a session from Canterbury Country Cricket, swim at Dudley Park and get crafty with kite making and flying.
- **Ashburton:** sharpen your cricket skills with a session from Mid Canterbury Cricket, swim at the EA Centre, including fun on the inflatables and see 'Baby Boss' at the movies.

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Week Two: 24th, 26th – 28th (Anzac Day is Tuesday 25th)

- **Christchurch Boys High:** learn new skills with a session from High School Old Boys Rugby Club, go crazy at the Phat SK8 roller disco, take in a movie at Hoyts. Juniors get crafty and make and fly a kite, Seniors swim at Wharenui.
- **Rolleston:** take on an orienteering challenge at the Halswell Quarry, Juniors enjoy a picnic and games afternoon at Parekura Reserve, Seniors swim at the Selwyn Aquatic Centre.

Register online now www.sportcanterbury.org.nz

Week One registrations close on Monday 10th April at 5pm (or earlier if fully booked)

Week Two registrations close on Monday 17th April at 5pm (or earlier if fully booked)

An 8am start option is available at Westburn and CHCH Boys High

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Southern Cross Irish Dance



**1ST
LESSON
FREE**

Beginner Classes

Tuesdays 4pm-5pm (from 28th Feb 2017 onwards) Christchurch Irish Society Hall 29 Domain Tce, Spreydon	Saturdays 10am-11am (from 4th March 2017 onwards) St Mary's Church Hall 329 Halswell Rd, Halswell
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Great for kids to gain confidence, co-ordination and rhythm

To book, contact
Shannon & Argène on 022 040 3109,
southerncrossirishdance@gmail.com

SouthernCrossIrishDance.com



**Southern
Cross
Irish Dance**
